

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAVANA 02254 030047Z
ACTION ARA-14

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EO 11652: NA
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SUBJ: CUBANS DENY RESPONSIBILITY IN KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

1. SUMMARY: CUBANS DENOUNCE ALLEGED CIA EFFORTS TO LINK CUBANS WITH ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY. CUBANS IMPLY THAT CIA WISHES TO COVER UP ITS OWN INVOLVEMENT. CUBAN DECLARATIONS COINCIDE WITH OPENING OF ASSASSINATION COMMITTEE HEARINGS IN US. END SUMMARY.

2. CUBANS, IN WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL "YOUTH ACCUSES IMPERIALISM" TRIBUNAL, AFTERNOON AUGUST 2, DENOUNCE ALLEGED CIA EFFORT TO LINK KENNEDY ASSASSINATION WITH SO-CALLED "AM-LASH" ASSASSINATION OPERATIONS CONDUCTED AGAINST FIDEL CASTRO. SUPPOSED LINK, ACCORDING TO CUBANS, WAS RAISED BY CIA IN ITS CONTRIBUTION TO 1976 SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE REPORT. THEORY ADVANCED BY CIA, CUBANS CLAIM, IS THAT "AM-LASH"-ROLANDO CUBELAS-WAS DOUBLE AGENT WHO BETRAYED CIA ASSASSINATION PLANS TO CASTRO WHO, IN TURN, ORDERED KILLING OF KENNEDY.

3. CUBANS DENY THIS LINK AND PRODUCED CUBELAS, ALLEGEDLY FROM COMBINADO DEL ESTE PRISON, TO DENOUNCE CHARGES. CUBANS AND CUBELAS ASKED HOW LATTER COULD BE DOUBLE AGENT WHEN,
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PAGE 02 HAVANA 02254 030047Z

SINCE 1966, HE HAS BEEN IN PRISON SERVING 25 YEAR PRISON SENTENCE. (COMMENT: CUBELAS, UNLIKE OTHER CURRENT PRISONERS INTERVIEWED, APPEARED LIVE IN TRIBUNAL - NOT ON FILM. HE APPEARED FIT. FYI PERUVIAN EMBASSY OFFICER ABOUT FOUR WEEKS AGO, CITED RUMOR TO US THAT CUBELAS HAD BEEN RELEASED FROM PRISON AND WAS WORKING AS ENGINEER. END FYI.)

4. CUBANS WENT ON TO CLAIM THAT CIA HAD BOTH MOTIVES TO CONSPIRE TO KILL KENNEDY AND MEANS TO DETECT THAT CUBANS WERE NOT INVOLVED. CUBAN STATE SECURITY DOUBLE AGENT THEN IN MIAMI DESCRIBED DISILLUSION OF CUBAN EXILES AND CIA OFFICIALS WITH KENNEDY AND JOY AFTER HE WAS KILLED. FORMER CUBAN CONSUL IN MEXICO APPEARED AND SAID THAT PERSON WHO APPLIED FOR CUBAN TRANSIT VISA IN SEPTEMBER 1963 UNDER NAME OF LE HARVEY OSWALD WAS NOT SAME MAN KILLED BY JACK RUBY IN DALLAS. ("OSWALD" ASKED FOR TRANSIT VISA TO USSR WITH TWO WEEK STAY IN CUBA. VISA WAS NOT GRANTED BECAUSE MINREX AUTHORIZATION NOT RECEIVED QUICKLY ENOUGH AND "OSWALD" DID NOT HAVE SOVIET ENTRY VISA.) CONSUL SUGGESTED THAT PERSON APPLYING FOR VISA WANTED TO ESTABLISH LINK BETWEEN OSWALD AND CUBANS APPLYING FOR STAY THERE. CONSUL SAID THAT PHOTO OF "OSWALD" LEAVING CUBAN CONSULATE WAS NOT "OSWALD" WHO APPLIED FOR VISA. CIA SUPPOSEDLY HAS ADMITTED THAT PHOTO WAS NOT REAL LEE HARVEY OSWALD.) CUBAN ENGINEER THEN APPEARED AND SHOWED CIA LISTENING EQUIPMENT RECOVERED IN CUBAN CONSULATE AND EMBASSY IN MEXICO. CUBAN "PROSECUTOR" SOUGHT TO ESTABLISH THAT CIA WAS COMPLETELY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT WHO ENTERED CUBAN CONSULATE AND, THEREFORE, WAS FULLY AWARE OF IDENTITY OF "OSWALD" WHO APPLIED FOR VISA. (CUBANS' TESTIMONY WAS LATER SUPPORTED CIRCUMSTANTIALLY BY CIA DEFECTOR AGE. CIA DEFECTOR WILCOTT REPORTED COMMENT HE HEARD THAT OSWALD WAS CIA AGENT.)

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PAGE 03 HAVANA 02254 030047Z

5. CUBAN "PROSECUTOR" CLAIMED THAT CIA, MAFIA, AND CUBAN EXILES ALL HAD REASON TO KILL KENNEDY. "PROSECUTOR" ADDED THAT CIA OFFICIAL DESMOND FITZGERALD PLANNED TO MEET WITH ROLANDO CUBELAS IN PARIS, NOVEMBER 29, 1963, BUT CANCELLED MEETING WHEN KENNEDY ASSASSINATION ANNOUNCED. CUBAN SOUGHT TO IMPLY THAT FITZGERALD HAD SOME INVOLVEMENT WITH KENNEDY ASSASSINATION PLOT.

6. COMMENT: CUBANS WENT QUITE FAR IN IMPLYING THAT CIA WAS INVOLVED IN KENNEDY ASSASSINATION, WITHOUT MAKING DIRECT ALLEGATION. MAIN THRUST OF THEIR PRESENTATION WAS TO WARD OFF ANY ACCUSATIONS THAT CUBANS WERE LINKED WITH ASSASSINATION. CUBANS MAY HAVE SENSE THAT FORTHCOMING HEARINGS WILL PRODUCE CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE SUGGESTION CONTRARY. IN THIS REGARD, CUBAN "PROSECUTOR" MENTIONED ACCUSATION THAT A CERTAIN CUBAN-US DUAL NATIONAL ENTERED TEXAS IN 1963 - BUT HE SAID THAT CUBANS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO IDENTIFY HIM. ON OTHER HAND, CUBANS MAY BE SEEKING ONLY TO RE-LAUNCH BASIC INVESTIGATION OF KENNEDY ASSASSINATION TO ATTEMPT TO CAST DISCREDIT ON CIA AND OTHER US INSTITUTIONS.

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